

WOMEN DEMAND EQUAL SUFFRAGE

(Continued From First Page.)

By B. A. Banks, of Norfolk, in the House when discussing the anti-gambling bill. The measure is evidently aimed in some degree at the race-track betting at Norfolk, since it gives justices of the peace and circuit courts concurrent jurisdiction in the trial of gambling cases, and allows the Commonwealth an appeal. The bill was not acted upon, the House adjourning before the question of engrossment and third reading was put.

It has been decided that the matter of contract convict labor shall be taken up in a joint meeting of the two Committees on Roads and Internal Navigation on Monday, January 29, at 8 o'clock. Beginning at that time, there will be a series of hearings on the subject.

In both houses was the address of General Robert E. Lee, taken from a well of his army, read in the Senate by Lieutenant-Governor J. Taylor Ellyson, and in the House by Captain W. W. Baker, both Confederate veterans. As a further remark of respect to the famous commander on his birthday, both bodies adjourned for the day.

HOUSE

The bill creating a woman's co-ordinate college was reported to the House at the beginning of its session yesterday by the Committee on Schools and Colleges. So was the measure to equalize the salaries of men and women teachers. The Finance Committee reported the Brown resolution for a joint commission to consider the Virginia-Maryland boundary line.

Mr. White, of Rockbridge; Mr. Stephenson, of Bath; and Mr. Peck, of Norfolk county, were appointed by the Speaker as members of the joint committee to prepare for the presentation of Sam Houston's portrait.

Mr. Cox called up the Senate bill permitting the supervisors of Henrico county to increase the salary of the circuit judge, and it was placed on the calendar.

Wilson Is Invited.

A resolution was offered by Mr. Cox, and agreed to, inviting Governor Woodrow Wilson, of New Jersey, to address the General Assembly at the time he will speak to the City Council on February 1, at 8 P. M. A committee of seven is to make arrangements.

On motion of Mr. Creamer, it was decided that when the House adjourns it do so in honor of "Virginia's Immortal son," General Robert E. Lee, and that some Confederate veteran member

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a court is declared insane a vacancy shall exist within thirty days, and the proper power shall fill the place. There seemed to have been heretofore no provision for such a contingency. The constitutional readings of the bill were dispensed with and the bill passed.

Henrico Judge's Salary.
Mr. Cox secured consideration of Senate bill No. 11, allowing the Henrico supervisors to increase the salary of the circuit judge. The readings were dispensed with.

Mr. White of Rockbridge objected to the bill. He did not think it right that judges should be in too close connection with the paymaster. It gave too much opportunity for men on the bench to ingratiate themselves with supervisors and Councils and get raises in salary. He did not mean to reflect on any circuit judge on the bench, but some get more than judges of the Supreme Court.

In view of the fact that his county was affected, Mr. Throckmorton asked that the bill be passed by until he could investigate it. Mr. Cox said he had no objection, and it was passed to-day.

By a vote of 57 to 11 the House passed the Lunenburg bill, allowing the judge to appoint an attorney who may be the attorney for the Commonwealth, to examine titles of land bought for school purposes.

Aimed at Loan Sharks.
Then came the Oliver bill, redistributing the use of garnishment proceedings to judgments upon claims which are not more than ten per cent. interest. Mr. Oliver explained that it was directed at loan sharks and is intended to prevent them from garnishing wages when they have charged more than the legal rate of interest.

Mr. Weaver objected. He thought the time for a debtor to plead usury was when the trial was had, and the bill would increase litigation by making two actions necessary, where now one will suffice.

Mr. Throckmorton said many ignorant people do not understand that they can make the plea of usury. Mr. Weaver said he would agree to the bill if made to apply to wage-earners only, but Mr. Oliver said this would be class legislation and probably unconstitutional.

Mr. Houston moved to pass the bill by which was defeated. The measure was put on its final passage and passed by a vote of 41 to 28.

House bill No. 17 was dismissed, a similar bill having come from the Senate.

A Bill by Mr. Weaver allowing assistance to be filed at either the place of residence or the cause of action was passed unanimously.

Dover of Widows.

The bill entitling the widow to dower in the proceeds of the sale of lands sold to satisfy a money debt, payable out of the surplus, came up on its passage. Mr. Oliver opposed it. He illustrated the result by saying that a husband with \$3,000 in cash—all he has—buys a \$9,000 farm in his wife's name, borrowing \$6,000 on a deed of trust on the property. He dies, and his widow gets all the farm. He thought the tendency of laws for years has been in the direction of allowing debtors to avoid payment, and that it had been extended far enough.

Mr. White, the patron, said that the bill was intended to protect the widow, and that the argument of Mr. Oliver had been based on the original proposition that the husband had personal property—the money.

The bill was defeated, 29 to 48. Mr. White tried to pass by a motion to reconsider, but was defeated, and the bill is dead.

The Speaker signed the emergency game bill.

In honor of General Lee's birthday, the first bill to be considered on its second reading was that appropriating money to care for the graves of the dead of the Confederacy in residence throughout the State. The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time.

Gambling Bill Up.

The gambling bill was next on the calendar, prohibiting playing or betting for any money or other thing of value. The patron, Mr. Stephenson, of Bath, moved to amend the bill, "or other thing of value," so that it would include only money. This would not bar playing for prizes.

Mr. Banks opposed the bill and moved to dismiss it. The Norfolk man deplored the tendency to legislate against what the people regard as evils, and said that the time would come when a people calling themselves free would be bound in chains to meaningless laws. "Then shall not" appears too often, he said, in the Code.

"I all the laws on the Virginia Statute books were enforced," he said, "99 per cent. of the people would be in jail."

He objected also to the provision

that justices of the peace and circuit courts should be given concurrent jurisdiction in the trial of gambling cases, saying this was harking back to old days.

Mr. Stephenson said gambling is gambling, whether for much or little. He did not expect the bill would entirely stop gambling, but it would at least show the feeling of representatives of the people.

Case in Norfolk.
As to the jurisdiction, he said the member from Norfolk should know that when a justice is ignorant or incompetent, the Commonwealth's attorney has no appeal if the person of trial is acquitted. This provision was evidently put in the bill because of the failure of the prosecution in the Norfolk race track cases.

Mr. Weaver called attention to the fact that the bill makes a jail sentence, as well as fine, mandatory. Mr. Stephenson amended this so as to make it fine or jail.

Mr. Oliver moved to amend by not allowing the Commonwealth an appeal, making a protest against changing the procedure in all other cases.

Mr. Coleman, the other Norfolk member, also opposed the bill, as causing indictments on ex-parte evidence without a hearing.

At the conclusion of his remarks, Mr. Harwood moved to adjourn, which was carried at 1:40, the bill going over until to-morrow.

SENATE
The Senate convened at noon with Lieutenant-Governor J. Taylor Ellyson in the chair. Reports from the standing committees were first in the order of business.

A number of bills of limited interest were reported. Chairman Echols, of the Committee on Finance, reported the House bill providing for the return by this session of the 10 per cent. in Confederate pensions authorized by the last Legislature. The favorable report of the Senate

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Finance Committee on this measure was taken to indicate that the restoration of \$10,000 to Confederate pensioners provided for by the act will be authorized by the present Legislature.

Senator Echols moved that the Senate request the presiding officer to suspend business for a few minutes in honor of Lee's birthday and to refer to the Senate the farewell speech of the Southern leader at Appomattox.

The motion was put before the house by its author, Senator Echols, and was carried unanimously.

Lieutenant-Governor Ellyson, in complying with the wish of the Senate, expressed his gratitude at being called upon to perform this service, which he said held all the more significance for him since he was a soldier in Lee's army at the time of the surrender, and heard the message from the general's own lips.

Committee Increased.
Business was resumed with the carrying of an amendment offered by Senator Stephens, of Loudoun, to increase in the number of the Committee on Privileges and Elections from eleven to twelve.

A joint resolution was reported from the House, and adopted, asking the Senate to appoint a committee to consider the petition of the Commonwealth to extend an invitation to Governor Woodrow Wilson, of New Jersey, to deliver an address before the General Assembly on the evening of February 1. Senators Holt, Echols and Walker were appointed to serve on this committee.

Senator Harman called up the joint resolution from the House, held over from the day before, authorizing the Governor and Senate of the Commonwealth to obtain true copies of the authoritative flag and seal of the State and incorporate them in all stationery and State papers upon which use would be appropriate. The resolution set forth that many spurious and often misleading designs were being circulated as official Virginia seals and flags, and that some action of this kind was necessary to stop this traffic. It was carried unanimously.

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the day, and passed on its third reading a bill to amend the Code of Virginia in reference to the maintenance, medicines and clothing for indigent prisoners in jail and analyses in poison cases.

Peace Officers.
The bill to constitute certain State and county officers special conservators of the peace, which passed on its third reading, passed after a stiff attack, by a vote of 23 to 18. The feature of it which caused the objection was the clause making the Commonwealth's attorneys conservators of the peace, with power to demand peace bonds from any person who might be a threat to the public peace. Mr. Thornton, the patron of the bill, explained that it was designed to relieve an abnormal condition of affairs in Alexandria county, which had become a dumping ground for the criminal and depraved classes which cluster about the national capital.

To preserve order in that county, he said, it is necessary to increase the number of county officers who have power to preserve peace. The matter could not be adjusted by a special act applying only to Alexandria county, and was therefore made general. It was suggested that the situation might be met by applying to the circuit judge for additional police protection, but the vote of the Senators showed the sentiment of the body to be with the Senator from Fairfax.

School Courses.
The bill to require a course of instruction to be given in civics training in all public high schools and all higher institutions of learning supported by the State, passed on its second reading, after being deprived of an amendment by the Committee on Public Institutions, which provided for the extension of the instruction to the grammar schools. The tenor of the speeches against the amendment was that the bill was too broad and down with too many laws already.

The other bill that passed the Senate, were, on the second reading: To require a course of instruction to be given in civics training in all public high schools.

To authorize the Board of supervisors of Isle of Wight county to build a bridge across Jones's Creek.

On their first reading:

To amend the Code of Virginia relating to the report of the Auditor of Public Accounts.

To amend an act approved March 17, 1910, relating to deed and contracts.

Adjournment was taken at 1:30.

HOUSE BILLS

The following were presented and referred under Rule 37:

To Joint Committee on Special, Private and Local Legislation.

By Mr. Stephenson, of James City: A bill to permit the establishment of a private bridge over the waters of Skidaw Creek between the counties of Warwick and James City.

By Mr. White, of Rockbridge: A bill to authorize the Board of Supervisors of Rockbridge county and the town of Lexington, or either of them, to contribute for the benefit of the Jackson Memorial Hospital in the town of Lexington.

By Mr. Templeton: A bill to amend the charter of Basic City.

By Mr. Houston: A bill to authorize the Auditor of Public Accounts to pay certain claims due the treasurer of Elizabeth City county.

To Committee on Finance.

By Mr. Harwood: A bill to amend the corporation tax law.

By Messrs. Radford and Burdette: A

bill to appropriate the sum of \$6,000 to redeem registered certificates No. 18, issued February 23, 1908.

By Mr. White, of Rockbridge: A bill to continue and extend an act to direct the Board of Charities and Corrections to ascertain the facts concerning the weak-minded, other than insane and epileptic, in the State of Virginia.

By Mr. Hyatt: A bill to increase license taken on liquor dealers.

By Messrs. Williams and Houston: A bill to revise and digest the Code and statutes of Virginia.

To Committee on Schools and Colleges.

By Mr. Ivay: A bill to require county treasurers to deposit county, district and school funds in some bank or banks to be designated by the judge of the circuit court of their respective counties, and to prescribe terms upon which the said bank or banks shall do so.

To Committee on General Laws.

By Mr. Fitzhugh: A bill to regulate cold storage refrigerating warehouses and places, and the sale and disposition of the food kept or preserved therein.

By Mr. Baker, of Chesterfield: A bill to amend the general tax law.

To Committee on Agriculture and Mining.

By Mr. Kemper: A bill to provide for the registration of stallions and jacks.

By Messrs. Baker, of Chesterfield, and Adams: A bill defining the salaries and powers and emoluments of the Board of Agriculture and Immigration.

To Committee on Counties, Cities, and Towns.

By Mr. Chalkley: A bill relative to pay of assessors of the Code of Virginia.

By Mr. Hain: A bill to prohibit the selling or giving of apples, grapes, or other fruits, and prescribing a license for selling all other kind of fruit.

To Committee on Privileges and Elections.

By Mr. Chalkley: A bill to restrict the State.

To Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation.

By Mr. Page: A bill to regulate the receiving, receiving for and delivery of property transported by express companies, and the collecting of tolls and charges for transporting and delivering the same, and providing for the same.

(Continued on Seventh Page.)

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